

CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 21-26 and 28-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 (e) as being anticipated by Sasson et al (US Patent No. 5,016,107). The rejection is respectfully traversed. Specifically, the Examiner states that Fig. 1 and the accompanying text discloses the claimed invention including means for “checking for initialization of the memory (col. 5, lines 45-50)” etc. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Sasson neither teaches nor suggests checking for *initialization of a memory element*. The examiner’s reference to column 5, lines 45-50 is in error. While Sasson generally discloses a “verification routine”, such routine is specifically directed to checking for “faults or errors”. Nowhere does Sasson teach or suggest checking for *memory element initialization*— a claimed element of each of independent claims 21, 22, 23, 28 and 31.

With respect to Claim 31, the Examiner asserts that the claimed erase mode control switch is disclosed. Even if the Examiner’s argument was correct, which it is not, the Examiner fails to find any correspondence between the claimed control unit and the cited Sasson reference. The reason is simple – there is none. *Nowhere* does Sasson teach or suggest a control unit for *formatting a digital image signal in a format dependent upon the type of the applied storage device*.

Claims 21, 22, 23, 28 and 31 patentably distinguish over the cited Sasson reference and, therefore, are believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner’s rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 24-26 and 29-30 depend from and include all of the limitations of claims 23 and 28, respectively, and are therefore also believed to be in condition for allowance.